

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image bearing member;
first developing means, including a first
5 developer carrying member, for developing a first
latent image formed on said image bearing member;
second developing means, having a second
developer carrying member, for developing a second
latent image formed on said image bearing member
10 after said first developing means has developed the
first latent image;
a rotary unit, for holding said first and said
second developing means and for moving said first and
said second developing means to positions opposite
15 said image bearing member,
wherein, upon the reception of an image forming
signal at said image forming apparatus, said first
and said second bearing members are rotated before
the first latent image on said image bearing member
20 is developed.

2. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein, when said first and said second
developer bearing members are to be rotated before
25 the development of the first latent image, said
positions for said first and said second developing
means differ from those for the development of the

latent images.

3. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 2, wherein said rotary member can be pivoted,
5 at a shaft that is parallel to a rotary shaft of said
rotary member and is not coaxial with the rotary
shaft, to a first position that is adjacent to said
image bearing member, and to a second position that
is distant from said image bearing member; and
10 wherein the position of said rotary member is the
second position when said first and said second
developer bearing members are to be rotated before
the development of the first latent image.

15 4. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 2, further comprising:

a gear, located at a position, in the
circumferential direction, of said rotary member, for
driving said first and said second developer bearing
20 members,

wherein, when said rotary member is rotated,
said first developer bearing member engages said gear
and then said second developer bearing member engages
said gear.

25

5. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said first and said second developer

bearing members are flexible rollers, and said first and said second developing means have blades that abut upon said flexible rollers.

5 6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when said first and said second developer bearing members are to be rotated before the development of the first latent image, a rotational distance for each of said first and said
10 second developer bearing members is less than one rotation.

7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 an intermediate image bearing member for superimposing and holding first and second developer images that are formed on said image bearing member, before said first and said second developer images are transferred to the recording material,

20 wherein, during a period for the detection of a home position of said intermediate image bearing member, said first and said second developer bearing members are rotated before the development of the first latent image.

25